

REPROACHES BY AMERICANS IS CAUSING EINSTEIN DISTRESS

Relativity Pioneer Declares Thought That Casual and Uninterested Remarks Hurt Feelings of Friends in United States Is Unbearable.

By Howard Stepen.
BERLIN, Oct. 15.—Professor Albert Einstein has received within the last month hundreds of letters from Americans, in which they express their astonishment at some seemingly unfriendly remarks he has made recently about American colleges to the effect that American students were not taking their studies seriously and that the enthusiasm exhibited in behalf of the principal of relativity was but a passing fancy. This has caused your correspondent today in a special interview for the Public Ledger, has been one of the worst blows he has received in his life and is causing him, in his own words, many sleepless hours at night.

The thought that any such statements, made casually in the course of conversation, should become widely spread in the States, a country that afforded me so much pleasure, and where I was met with such courtesy, nay, friendliness, is quite unbearable to me, he said, and ever and again returned to that subject. "Never dreamed of hurting feelings," said the Americans, Dr. Einstein confided, saying up and down, "I tell them I never dreamed of hurting their feelings. I have made the acquaintance of so many excellent scientists over there. I have been welcomed like a friend and have spent so many happy hours in America that it has worried me more than anything else in my life to think I might appear ungrateful. I have many good things to say of American institutions. Above all, I appreciate the hearty fellowship reigning in all colleges between professors and students, a spirit utterly unknown here. Also the manner in which politics are handled struck me right from the beginning as most noteworthy. Any one who voices his opinion and never is bitterness or personal insults introduced into the debate."

When asked as to what he thought of American science and what impression he had received of American scientific institutions, Professor Einstein grew very earnest, pausing for a few moments as if wishing to measure every word.

"Undoubtedly," he replied with certain emphasis in his voice, "America has taken over the lead in astronomy and meteorology. What concerns other branches of science, I do not venture an opinion, as I am not a competent judge on those subjects. But I know that the American institutions of physics belong to the leading ones of the world."

"The hours I spent in the laboratory in Chicago, where Millikan and Nicholson were, and my visit to the meeting of physicists of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Washington will never be forgotten by me. One thing I must say is that Americans have a fine spirit, an excellent straightforward manner with which they handle even the most intricate scientific problems. As for the principle of relativity, some of the best essays I have ever read on that subject are among those sent to the Scientific American. They are excellent, only to my mind—just a fraction too short."

An extraordinary scientist, Professor Einstein's study is the

ly highbrow subjects; while a large brass telescope set up in a corner of the reception room reminds the visitor that he is calling upon an extraordinary scientist. Prof. Einstein received your correspondent in white ducks and a blue jersey. He is a most pleasant host who makes one feel at home from the moment one enters his cozy apartment.

Afraid of interviewers.

"Experience has taught me," he said smilingly, "to be most careful in what I say to inquirers." He then turned to his desk and, rummaging among the pile of papers covering it, produced a short essay written by him on the "Danger of Being Interviewed." While jotting it down he had not thought of publication, but had written it more to relieve his own mind after having received that batch of reproachful letters from America. He handed it to your correspondent with a twinkle in his eye. It is written in the form of a letter to a friend and runs as follows:

"If one is publicly called to account for all one has said, whether one has spoken in jest or possibly in momentary irritation, one is often from

placed in an exceedingly awkward position, though one probably only gets what one has deserved. But the awkward position becomes a well-nigh hopeless dilemma if one is made responsible for words put into one's mouth by another."

See No Safe Road.

"You will ask who is placed in this quandary. Well, any one who is sufficiently popular or notorious to fall a prey to interviewers. You may smile at that, but, as I have experienced it frequently, I can explain it to you."

Take this case: One day a gentleman of the press comes to you and asks you to give him a few details concerning your friend Mr. N. For a moment you feel indignant at the proposal, and you are inclined to refuse, but you know well enough that if you say nothing the disappointed batch of reproachful letters will probably write thus: "I visited one of Mr. N's so-called best friends to glean some side light on his character and mode of life; but this friend was singularly reticent. Our readers can draw their own conclusion from this—probably necessary—dis-

cretion." You realize that there is thus no escape, and you say: "My dear friend Mr. N. is a cheerful, straightforward man, beloved by all who know him. He always looks on the bright side of things. He is enterprising, hard working and devoted to his profession. He is kind and affectionate to his family and gives all he earns to his wife."

Result is disastrous.

"The reporter makes out of this the following: 'Mr. N. takes nothing seriously. He has the knack of making people like him, chiefly because he is a "hall-fellow-well-met" with every one, and he does not shrink from flatterer most people. He is such a slave to his profession that he has no time—doubtless no inclination—for intellectual pursuits. He is weakly indulgent to his wife; in fact, he is entirely under her thumb.'"

"In the hands of an expert reporter this would be rendered far more drastically, but you can easily imagine that it would annoy Mr. N. intensely when he read it in a newspaper. Realizing that the information came from you, he would ob-

viously be deeply offended, and you, being really attached to him, would be sincerely grieved. What would you do in such a predicament? Tell me, and I will do likewise."

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WAGE ANTI-CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN IN ITALY

Fascist Off on New Tangent in Breaking Up Religious Celebrations.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.]

ROME, Oct. 15.—Fascist, whose assaults on the communists have become so common as no longer to be of news value, have now gone off on a new tangent in attempting to break up Catholic meetings at Palermo in honor of the seventh centenary of the Franciscan Order. Just after the benediction had been given the Fascist interrupted the ceremony with cries of "Long live the King! Down with the Pope!"

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